

CORRESPONDENCE

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The Panel Responds

TO THE EDITOR: The comments of Drs. Rom and Langer are appreciated and valued; they come from an investigative group long identified with significant contributions in the field of fibrogenic pulmonary disease.

The epitome encapsulated the opinions of Milne and Gross whose writings have appeared in scholarly, peer-review journals. In essence, the implantation studies cited embodied artificial introductions of fibers into the pleural cavity, and in quantities in excess of those possible in occupational exposure. Further, extrapolation of findings from one species to another may produce fallacious conclusions.

To be sure, direct deposition of fibers provoked tumors, but replication *in vivo* in the intact thorax bears no immediate relationship to the reality of the work setting.

It is agreed that long latent periods are needed for carcinogenicity in asbestos exposure, and glass fiber should be pursued as a comparable toxic agent under the circumstances of worker contact and inhalation.

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Current Chairman, CMA
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Tracking Down Migraine

Patients have a built-in aversion to the word "migraine." They will not use that term; they don't like it I ask them this: "Are you headachy?" Don't ask a patient "Do you have headaches?" He'll tell you about the time he got hit on the head at a football game in 1937 How do you get that family history? That is very important. If you say "Did your mother or dad ever have migraine?" "No!" That's what they'll say right off the bat. Don't ask them that. Ask them this: "Did your mother or dad have sick headaches?" "No." They may even hold on that. "Well, was your mother or dad headachy?" "Oh, yes! My dad had bad headaches. But he had sinus headaches." They'll call it sinus headache, they'll call it hypertensive headache, they'll call it allergic headache and they'll call it tension headache. If you go into the history, it's migraine time after time after time. The family history is critical. So you can't say "Did they have headaches?" You've got to say "Were they headachy?"

—J. LAWTON SMITH, MD, Miami
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